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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend section 6 of the Joint Resolution entitled “A Joint Resolution to approve the Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, and for other purposes”.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. SABLAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To amend section 6 of the Joint Resolution entitled “A Joint Resolution to approve the Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, and for other purposes”.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Northern Mariana Is-  
5       lands Workforce Stabilization Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. LONG-TERM LEGAL RESIDENTS OF THE COMMON-**  
2 **WEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA IS-**  
3 **LANDS.**

4 Section 6(e) of the Joint Resolution entitled “A Joint  
5 Resolution to approve the Covenant To Establish a Com-  
6 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political  
7 Union with the United States of America, and for other  
8 purposes”, approved March 24, 1976 (48 U.S.C. 1806),  
9 is amended by adding at the end the following:

10 “(6) SPECIAL PROVISION REGARDING LONG-  
11 TERM RESIDENTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH.—

12 “(A) CNMI-ONLY RESIDENT STATUS.—  
13 Notwithstanding paragraph (1), an alien de-  
14 scribed in subparagraph (B) may, upon the ap-  
15 plication of the alien, be admitted as an immi-  
16 grant to the Commonwealth subject to the fol-  
17 lowing rules:

18 “(i) The alien shall be treated as an  
19 immigrant lawfully admitted for permanent  
20 residence in the Commonwealth only, in-  
21 cluding permitting entry to and exit from  
22 the Commonwealth or to Guam for the  
23 purpose of transit only, until the earlier of  
24 the date on which—

1                   “(I) the alien ceases to perma-  
2                   nently reside in the Commonwealth;  
3                   or

4                   “(II) the alien’s status is ad-  
5                   justed under this paragraph or section  
6                   245 of the Immigration and Nation-  
7                   ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255) to that of  
8                   an alien lawfully admitted for perma-  
9                   nent residence in accordance with all  
10                  applicable eligibility requirements.

11               “(ii) The Secretary of Homeland Se-  
12               curity shall establish a process for such  
13               aliens to apply for CNMI-only permanent  
14               resident status during the 180-day period  
15               beginning on the first day of the sixth  
16               month after the date of the enactment of  
17               this paragraph.

18               “(iii) Nothing in this subparagraph  
19               may be construed to provide any alien  
20               granted status under this subparagraph  
21               with public assistance to which the alien is  
22               not otherwise entitled.

23               “(B) ALIENS DESCRIBED.—An alien is de-  
24               scribed in this subparagraph if—

1 “(i) the alien is lawfully present in the  
2 Commonwealth under the immigration  
3 laws of the United States;

4 “(ii) the alien is otherwise admissible  
5 to the United States under the Immigra-  
6 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et  
7 seq.);

8 “(iii) the alien is not a citizen of the  
9 Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Fed-  
10 erated States of Micronesia, or the Repub-  
11 lic of Palau; and

12 “(iv) the alien—

13 “(I) was admitted to the Com-  
14 monwealth as a Commonwealth Only  
15 Transitional Worker during fiscal year  
16 2015, and during every subsequent  
17 fiscal year beginning before the date  
18 of the enactment of the Northern  
19 Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act  
20 of 2018; or

21 “(II) resided in the Northern  
22 Mariana Islands as an investor under  
23 Commonwealth immigration law, and  
24 is presently resident under E-2 CNMI  
25 Investor Status (E2C).

1                   “(C) ADJUSTMENT FOR LONG-TERM RESI-  
2                   DENTS.—Beginning on the date that is 5 years  
3                   after the date of the enactment of this para-  
4                   graph, an alien described in subparagraph (B)  
5                   may apply to receive an immigrant visa or to  
6                   adjust his or her status to that of an alien law-  
7                   fully admitted for permanent residence.”.